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CRYOGENIC MIRROR ANALYSIS

S. Nagy

1. INTRODUCTION

Due to extraordinary distances scanned by modern telescopes, optical surfaces in such telescopes must be manufactured to unimaginable standards of perfection of a few thousandths of a centimeter. Upon what seems a perfectly ground and polished mirror, there will lie ripples, bumps, valleys, and a variety of aberrations and distortions. To detect these imperfections requires an intricately tuned optical system in conjunction with a phase-shift interferometer. The goal of the Astrophysical Experiments Branch group at NASA Ames was to be able to detect imperfections of less than $1/20$ of a wavelength of light, for application in the building of the mirror for the Space Infrared Telescope Facility (SIRTF). Because the mirror must be kept very cold while in space, another factor comes into effect: cryogenics.

Cryogenics refers to very cold liquids or surfaces, such as liquid helium (4.2 Kelvin). Since the mirror that will be used in SIRTF must detect radiation in the infrared range, any stray radiation from the telescope facility would degrade the quality of the image received from outer space. For this reason, the mirror must be cleverly surrounded by various heat shields of liquid helium, liquid nitrogen, and reflective coatings. But like any other surface that is cooled, the mirror will bend and twist out of its normal shape. This results in erroneous images.

How does the mirror become distorted? Is there any way to correct its aberrations, so as to receive a clear image? How does the light energy reflect from a warped mirror? These are some of the questions that are being answered by Cryogenic Mirror Testing/Analysis. This paper describes the process to test a specific mirror under cryogenic conditions; including the follow-up analysis accomplished through computer work. To better illustrate the process and analysis, we will follow a Pyrex Hex-Core mirror (Photo 5) through the process (referring to it as Mirror 1A) from the laser interferometry in the lab, to computer analysis via a computer program called FRINGE.

FRINGE has been an integral part of the Cryogenic Mirror Analysis giving Ames Research Center a fairly advanced computational tool for the analysis of an interferogram (an image describing the characteristics of an optical surface), which is vital to SIRTF. FRINGE has served as a solution to the problem of quantifying test data so that surface profile and other optical characteristics can be quantitatively determined.

The program can be viewed as a collection of subroutines that the user can arrange to quantify a variety of test data and reduce it such that a high quality optical path difference (OPD) map is produced. With this map, other analysis subroutines can be used to test optic errors, perform image quality analyses, calculate aberration coefficients, determine residual errors, etc. (*Taken from FRINGE manual, Arizona Optical Sciences Center*)

2. MECHANICS OF THE ANALYSIS PROCESS

During this discussion of the lab set-up and procedure, refer to the diagrams and pictures in Appendix A and Appendix C, respectively. For analysis of how the mirror will perform under extreme cold conditions, it is first mounted to the bottom of the top section of the dewar assembly as seen in Photo 4. The mirror must be firmly and precisely mounted to avoid wobbling. The dewar assembly, as seen in Photo 3, is the apparatus by which the mirror can be cooled to nearly 4 Kelvin (liquid helium temperature) to simulate its environment in space. Diagram 1 is a section view of the entire dewar assembly as seen in Photo 3.

Once the test mirror has been attached, the bottom two components of the dewar are attached, and the cooling down process begins. The liquid helium and the liquid nitrogen tanks at the top of the dewar are filled, after the air is pumped out from between the walls of the dewar. The laser interferometer, Photo 2 and Diagram 2, has been turned on at this point and during the cooling of the mirror, the laser is manually kept the correct distance from the mirror to remain in focus, by use of a micrometer mount (on Diagram 2).

Carbon resistors placed on the mirror surface and the walls of the dewar, indicate the temperature. As the temperature approaches that of liquid helium (4.2 Kelvin), the interferometer is precisely focused so that a clear image exists. The path of the laser beam is as follows. (Refer to Diagram 2.) First the laser beam, generated by a Helium-Neon Laser, passes through an aperture to filter out any scatter radiation or fuzziness. Then the beam passes through a microscope objective, which concentrates and narrows the beam, toward a beam-splitter cube where the majority of the light is reflected upward toward the test mirror through a window opening in the bottom of the dewar assembly.

Let us imagine that the light travels upward toward the mirror in small packages. Upon reaching the mirror, the light is reflected. Note that the light, however, may not be returning along the same path as when it was traveling toward the mirror, because the mirror may be warped from the cryogenic conditions. The reflected package of light meets with one of the packages of light that have been reflected downward by the beam-splitter cube. Ideally, the two packages should coincide, but because the reflected package of light is distorted, the two packages do not always mesh. In the areas where they do not mesh, they neutralize each other. This is called destructive interference, thus producing dark lines on the interferogram (Photo 1). These streaks are named fringes.

The light zones are where the two packages of light did not cancel each other. Once the fringe pattern is in focus, a photograph is taken. This is the point at which the fringe analysis via computer begins.

Photographs taken in the laboratory of the interference fringe pattern are digitized by an Apple IIe and HiPad digitizing tablet. The photo is placed on the tablet, where the fringe lines are manually entered into the computer, fringe by fringe until the image on the computer screen resembles the pattern on the photograph. At this point,

the computer converts the digitized coordinates into three-digit x/y coordinates (inch measurements without the decimal point). A hard copy of these coordinates is then generated for manual data entry into the VAX mainframe computer via a Tektronix terminal.

The digitized x/y coordinates of the fringe pattern are entered into the VAX as a file, each line having the x/y coordinates for a certain fringe. Various options are open to the user, depending on the type of mirror being used and the type of output desired. The following commands initiate the setting of parameters that can affect the output from the FRINGE program:

- a. WEDGE: specifies the frequency of fringes to be scanned
- b. COBS n : n is the fraction of the mirror radius represented by the hole
- c. STEP: defines the contour interval for the contour map (fraction of wavelengths)
- d. WIDTH: defines the fraction of the contour interval in which the characters will be printed, ranging from 0 to 1 where 0 will print characters only when they are identical to the contour value; a width of 1 will print characters at every position and the map will be filled with print (see RESULTS AND WHAT THEY MEAN, Contour Map).

3. RESULTS AND WHAT THEY MEAN

Once the data have been entered and the parameters have been set, FRINGE is run. A typical hard copy of the results from the calculations is included in Appendix B. Some of the important pieces of information are:

- a. STREHL RATIO: a measure of how close the mirror is to the ideal, with 1 being the ideal; defined as: given r = RMS Surface Error
- b. RMS SURFACE ERROR: root of the means of the squares of the Zernike polynomial coefficients; defined as:
- c. CONTOUR MAP: a top view of the mirror surface showing the peaks and valleys, much like a topographic map, using the letters A-N for decreasing mirror surface, and the letters P-Z for increasing mirror surface
- d. ZERNIKE POLYNOMIAL COEFFICIENTS: the terms of an endless series (truncated to 36 terms for practical purposes) that represents the aberrations found on the mirror surface

In addition to alphanumeric output, we have the option to generate color graphic plots. They are RED, GSPOT, and 3D Plot of Aberrations, as found in Appendix D. All of these plots have been created from the Zernike polynomial coefficients calculated on Mirror 1A. Refer to the first set of plots (Group I) in Appendix D during the discussion of the three different types of plots. They represent general plots of all the contributions obtained from Mirror 1A.

The first plot, 1A, describes the physical topography of the mirror surface in an exaggerated fashion. It provides for a visual understanding as to how all the aberrations combine to distort the mirror surface. Subsequently, the aberrations that combine to create the mirror surface, can be broken down, isolated, and categorized as being one of the following: Radial (Spherical), 1θ (Coma), 2θ (Astigmatism), 3θ , 4θ , and 5θ . We will look at all the distortions of Mirror 1A, except 5θ because of its negligible contribution in this case.

Plot IB is referred to as GSPOT (Geometric Spot Diagram), which is the result of a Geometric Ray Analysis showing the intersection of approximately 640 rays with the image plane and as a radial energy distribution function.

The last type of plot, the Radial Energy Distribution plot (RED) depicts the energy concentration percentage at a given radius from the center of the mirror. This is the energy that is reflected back from the mirror. Notice on Plot IC the sudden decline of energy between 0.00 and 0.80. This is due to the COBS parameter which defines the mirror as having a central hole. Therefore, no energy is reflected in that region.

The Radial Contributions, Group II plots, reflect a wave-like distortion from the center out. Thus the name spherical. The distortion is symmetrical, as is evident from the 3D plot, and from the GSPOT diagram. Also note the slight dip in the rise of the Radial Energy Curve. This is also a result of the undulations present on the mirror surface. The Group III plots show the characteristics of Coma distortion, which is quite minimal in this instance as seen from Plot IIIA.

The 2θ and 3θ Contribution plots are similar in that they both characterize a "potato chip-like" aberration in which there are distinct, symmetrical highs and lows. Note that the 2θ has only two highs and two lows, whereas the 3θ has three highs and three lows. And lastly, the 4θ Contribution, Group IV, which lacks a very significant contribution.

4. THE FUTURE OF CRYOGENIC MIRROR ANALYSIS AT NASA AMES

Through Cryogenic Mirror Analysis, the SIRTF group at Ames has been able to study the way different mirrors distort under extreme cold conditions. Beryllium, glass, and pyrex mirrors of different shapes and sizes have been tested. The next step, yet untested, is to try to reconfigure a mirror in an optical manufacturing environment so that it will be an undistorted mirror at cryogenic temperatures. This can be accomplished by polishing the mirror at room temperature using the data acquired from cryogenic testing. Where a peak existed at cryogenic temperature, a valley would be pol-

ished at room temperature. And vice versa. Then, theoretically, when the mirror is cooled it would distort from a bad mirror surface at room temperature, to a perfect surface at cryogenic temperature. This is what remains to be discovered through intensive testing.

In addition to the next steps in mirror reconfiguration, a few lab improvements are being sought. Plans for a larger dewar to accommodate larger mirrors are in sight as well as the purchase of a real-time, phase-shift laser interferometry system that would increase the present accuracy of $1/20$ of a wavelength to $1/50$ of a wavelength, as well as avoiding the manual data entry into the VAX. With these plans in mind, Cryogenic Mirror Analysis Technology at Ames Research Center will become an even more powerful tool.

APPENDIX A: DIAGRAMS

APPENDIX B: COMPUTER PRINTOUT

APPENDIX C: PHOTOS

APPENDIX D: PLOTS

APPENDIX E: PROCESS FLOWCHART

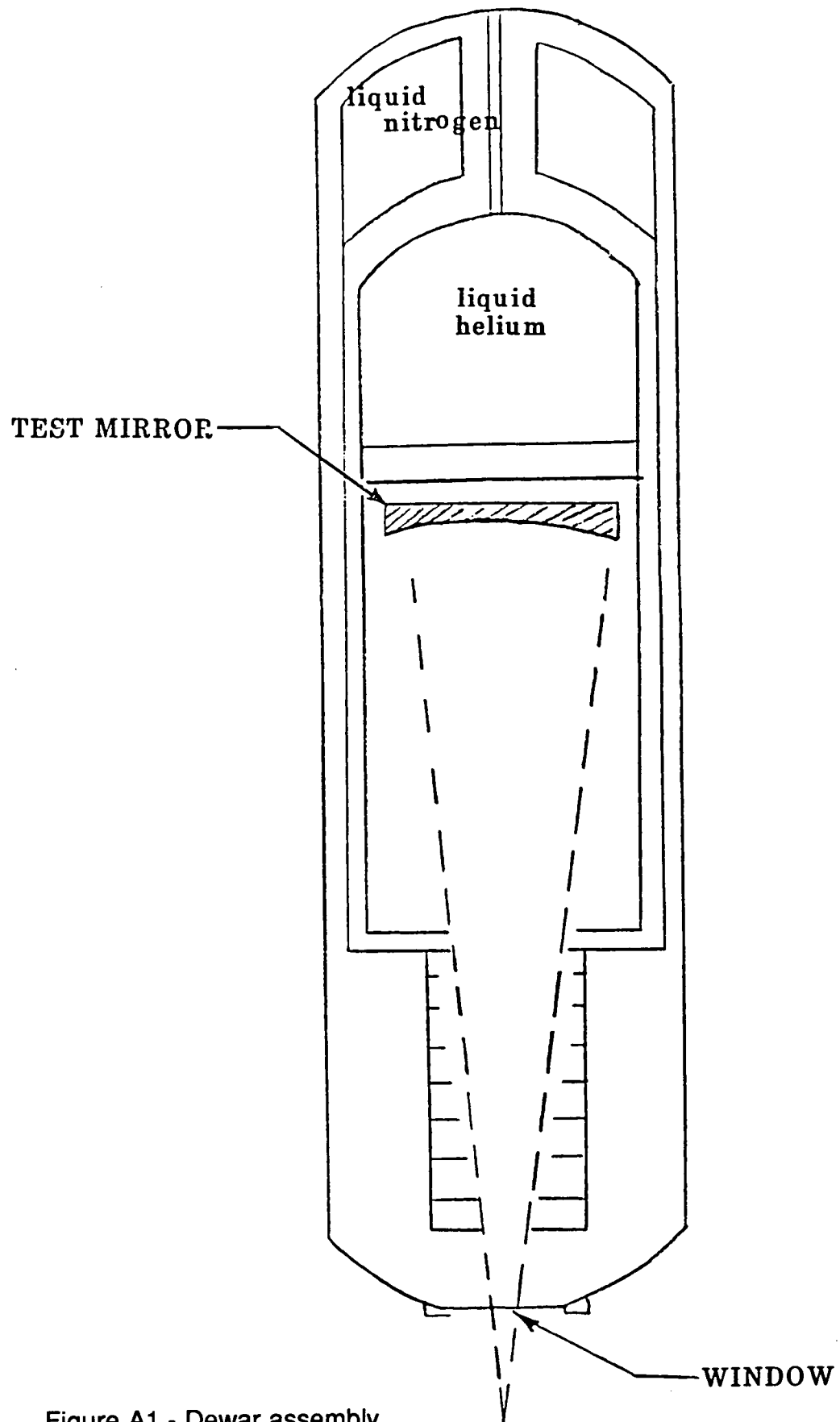


Figure A1.- Dewar assembly.

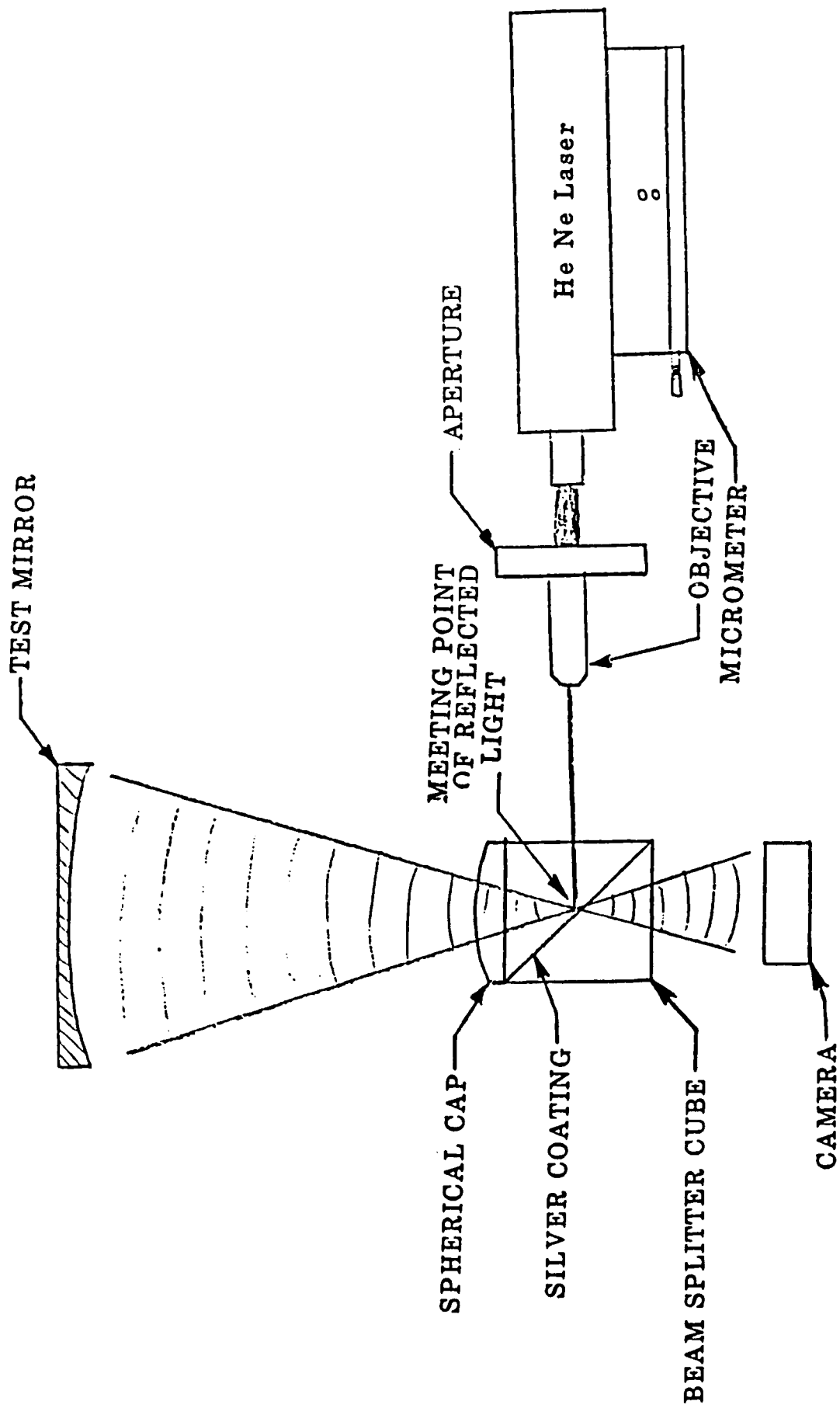


Figure A2.- Interferometer setup.

FRINGE ***** TECHNICAL PAPER-- SANDOR NAGY

17-JUL-86 12:46:52

--FIDS 403 740 701 466 426 169 129 443
 --LIST VERIFY
 --TILT FOCUS
 --WEDGE -.5
 --COBS .25
 --STEP .1
 --WIDTH .8
 --PART
 --FSCAN
 --END

APERTURE MASKING

TYPE	CAX	CAY	COX	COY
ELIP	1.0000	1.0000	0.2500	0.2500
--1	538 192	506 181	470 177	433 172
--	END			
--2	562 209	523 205	480 204	435 206
--	248 232	214 248	END	
--3	628 265	605 247	572 238	545 240
--	395 244	360 245	318 250	279 256
--	END			
--4	650 294	613 282	528 274	488 276
--	153 335	END		
--5	674 340	658 323	633 321	604 319
--	381 319	341 323	304 327	265 333
--	131 400	END		
--6	681 383	647 373	548 357	503 352
--	267 371	236 378	197 395	171 403
--7	692 436	656 420	611 413	578 406
--	388 405	339 408	295 412	255 421
--	134 500	END		
--8	695 476	614 459	574 448	540 442
--	365 455	344 354	297 456	270 465
--	146 533	141 552	END	
--9	684 536	648 520	597 499	499 487
--	308 500	283 512	251 527	226 535
--	END			
--10	668 576	579 557	508 533	467 537
--	278 564	243 580	214 589	191 592
--11	635 629	600 618	551 605	507 598
--	269 616	240 627	224 642	215 653
--12	577 686	568 668	510 651	472 646
--	281 666	269 677	267 686	265 697
--13	495 727	466 712	412 700	387 704
--	END OF DATA			

PUPIL CENTER AND RADIUS

XC	YC	RAD
414.7500	454.5000	286.4809

Figure B1.- Computer printout 1.

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WAVEFRON DEVIATION IN UNITS OF WAVES
TILT AND DEFOCUS MEASURED FROM DIFFRACTION FOCUS
WAVELENGTH 0.633 MICRONS

	N	RMS
RAW	0	1.676
PLANE	2	0.247
SPHERE	3	0.115
4H ORDER	8	0.107
6H ORDER	15	0.098
8H ORDER	24	0.088
COMPLETE	36	0.086

STREHL RATIO 0.592 AT DIFFRACTION FOCUS

FOURTH ORDER ABERRATIONS

MAGNITUDE WAVES	ANGLE DEG	DESIGNATION
3.136	-94.8	TILT
0.687		DEFOCUS
0.083	0.3	ASTIGMATISM
0.138	-161.2	COMA
0.354		SPHERICAL ABERRATION

FOLLOWING TERMS WERE SUBTRACTED FROM DATA-

TILT FOCUS

RESIDUAL WAVEFRON VARIATIONS EVALUATED AT DATA POINTS

PTS	RMS	MAX	MIN	SPAN	STREHL
169	0.118	0.368	-1.094	1.463	0.575

RESIDUAL WAVEFRON VARIATIONS OVER UNIFORM GRID

PTS	RMS	MAX	MIN	SPAN	STREHL
652.	0.061	0.258	-0.144	0.402	0.863

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RMS CALCULATED FROM ZERNIKE COEFFICIENTS=0.064

Figure B3.- Computer printout 3.

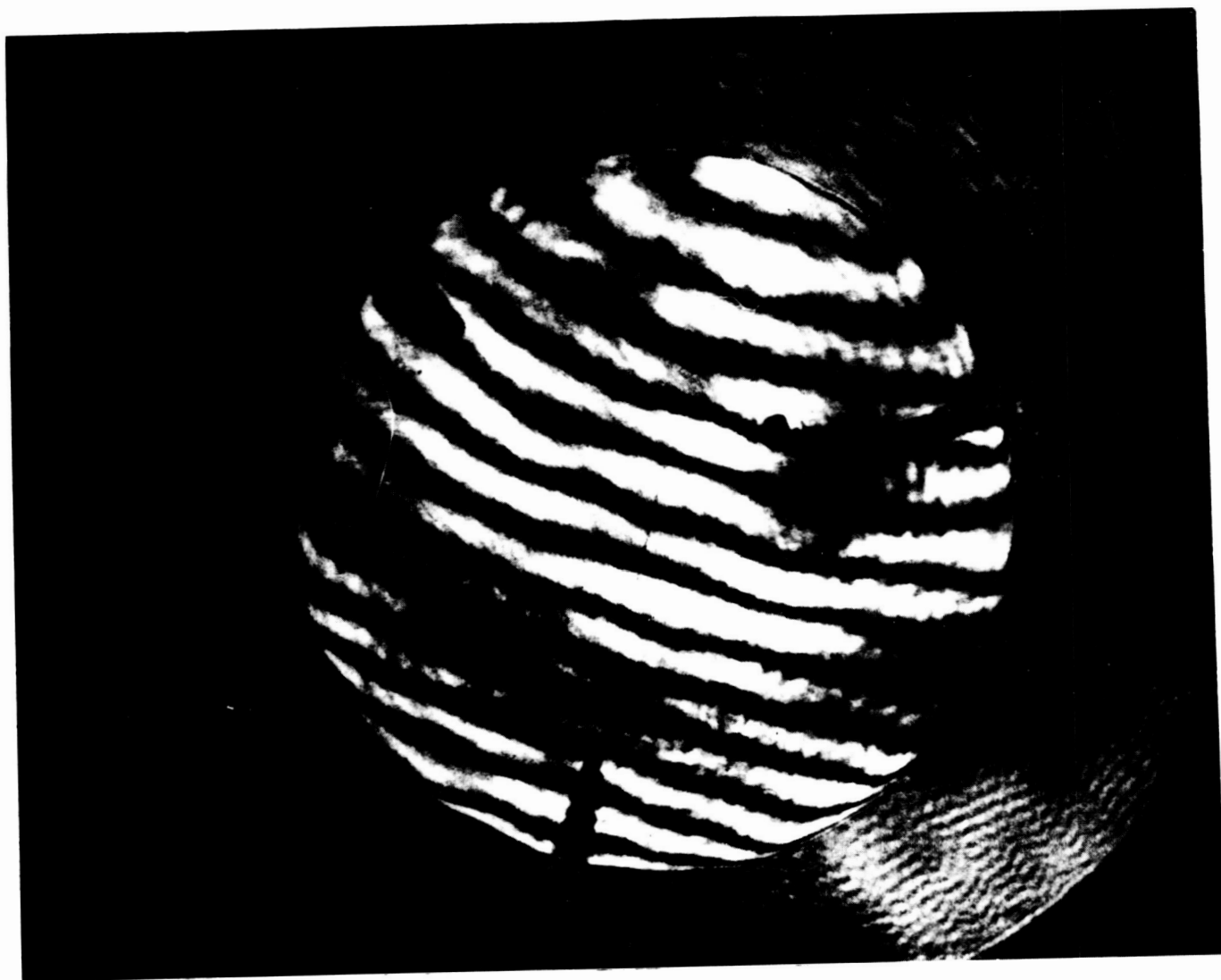


Figure C1.- Interference fringe pattern.

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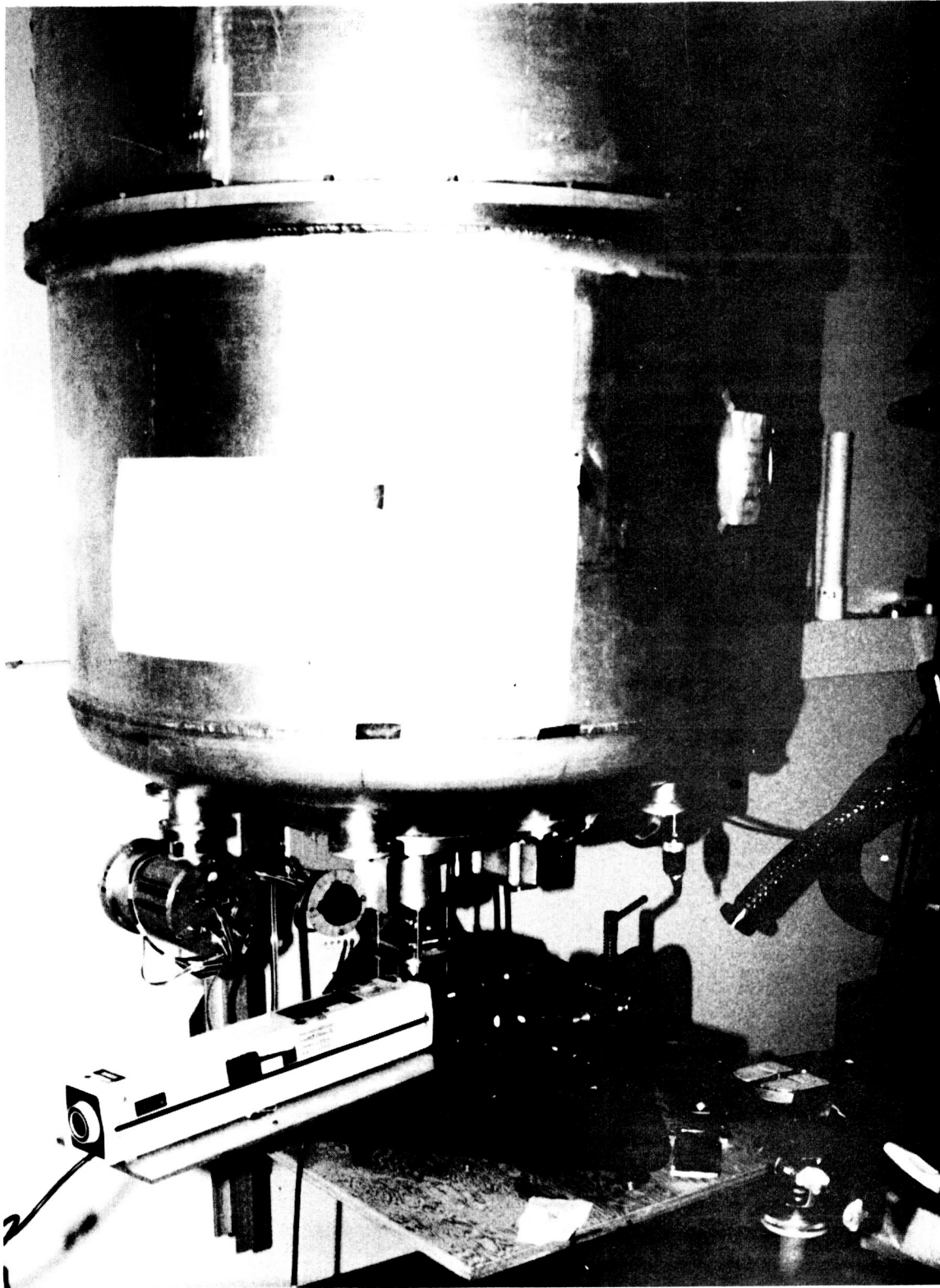


Figure C2.- Laser Interferometer with bottom of dewar.

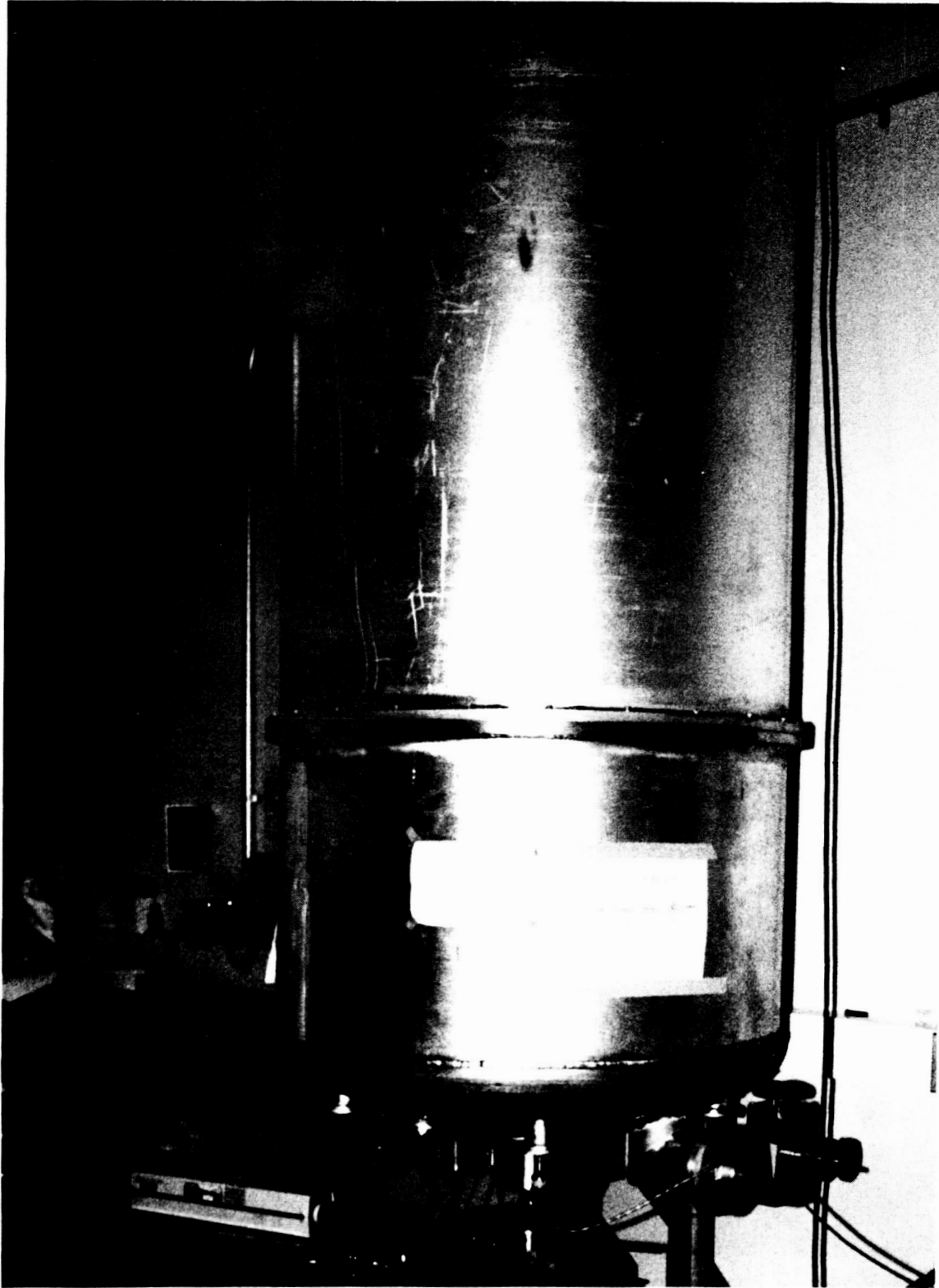


Figure C3.- Dewar assembly.

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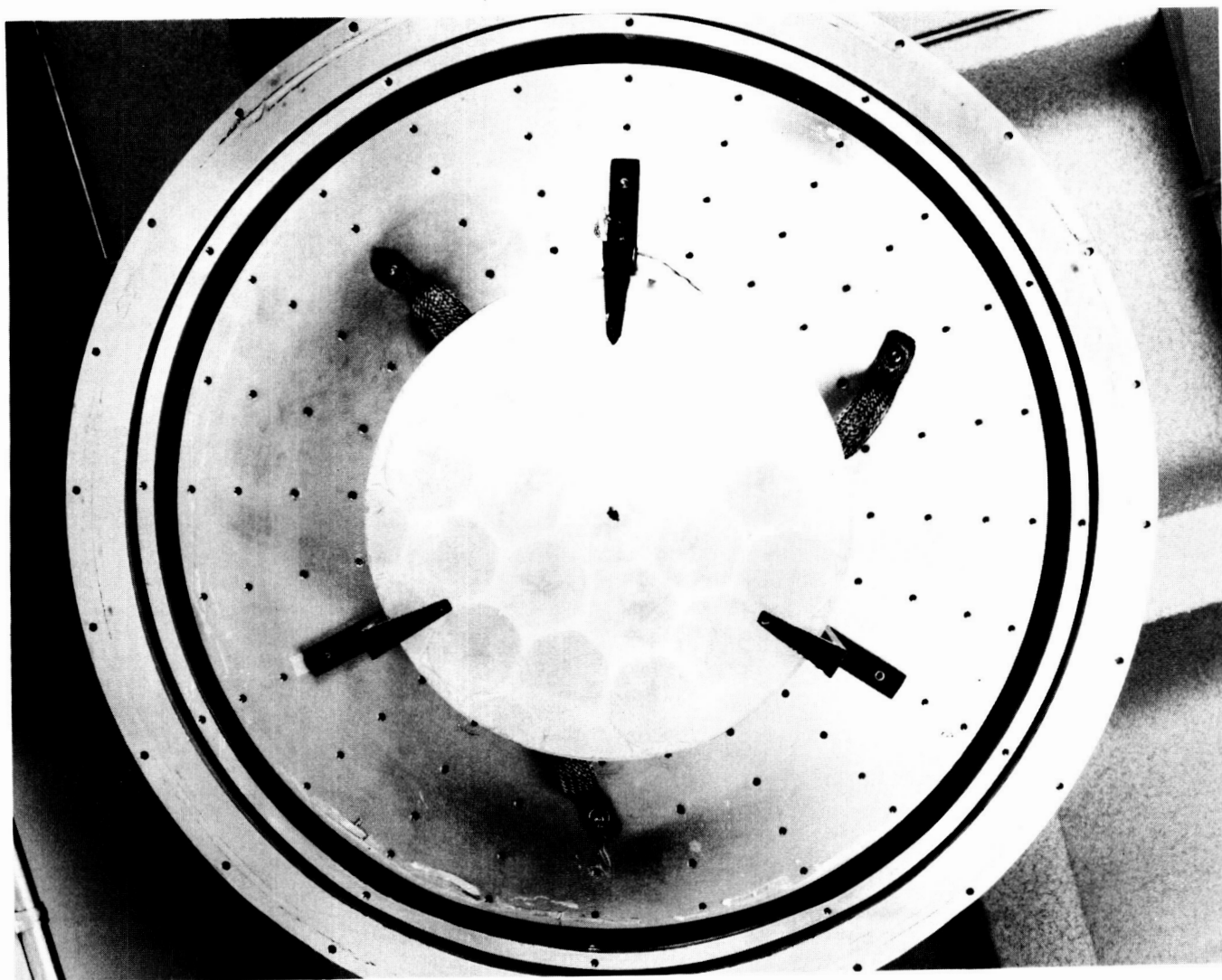


Figure C4.- Pyrex Hexcore Mirror 1A mounted to bottom of dewar assembly.

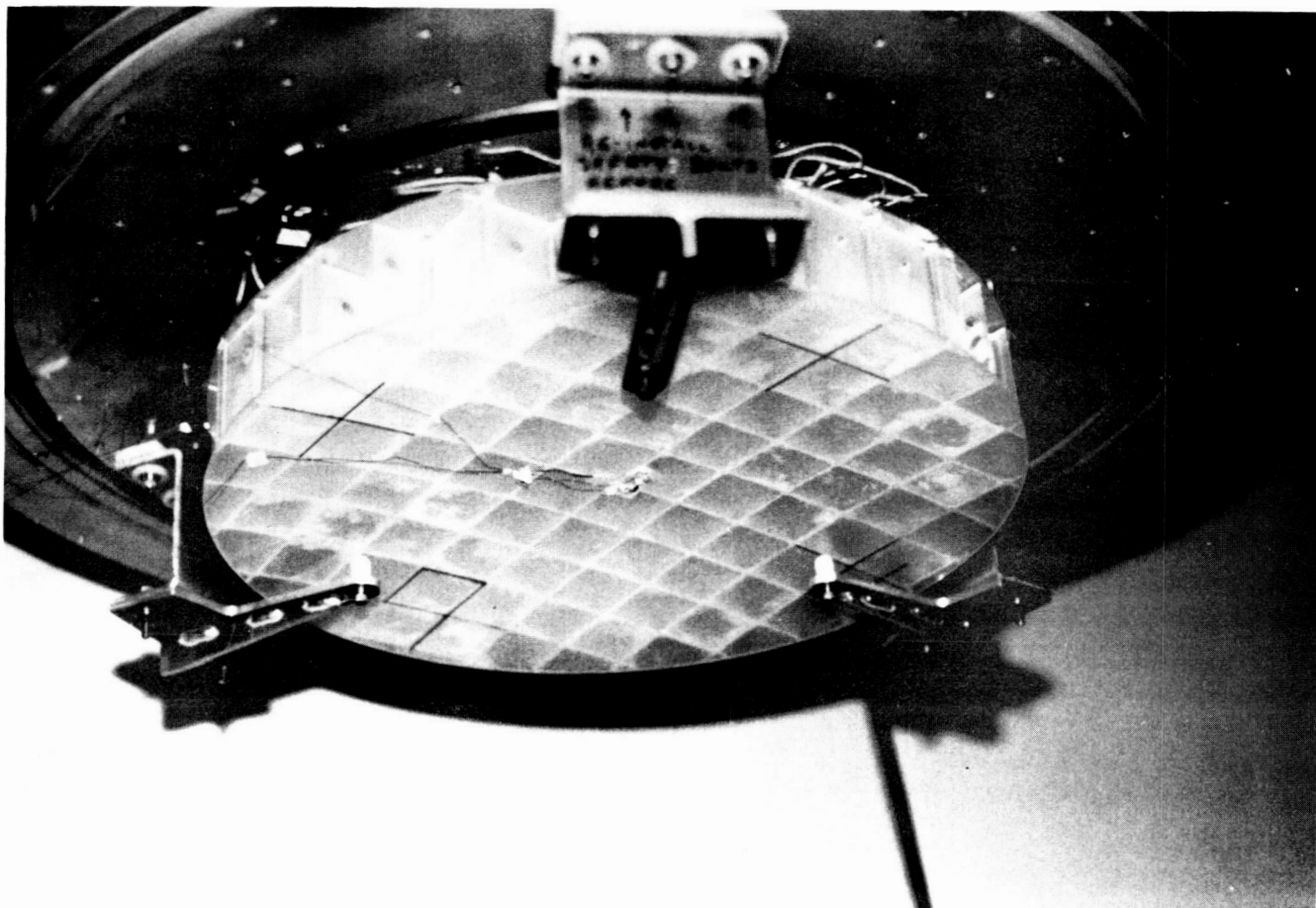


Figure C5.- Fused silica ultralightweight frit-bonded mirror.

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.0044	.0207	-.0214	.0012	-.0492	-.0035	-.0155	.0119
-.0182	-.0213	-.0104	.0028				

POLYNOMI

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WEDGE 0.5

STEP .1

WIDTH .4

COBS .25

PART

END

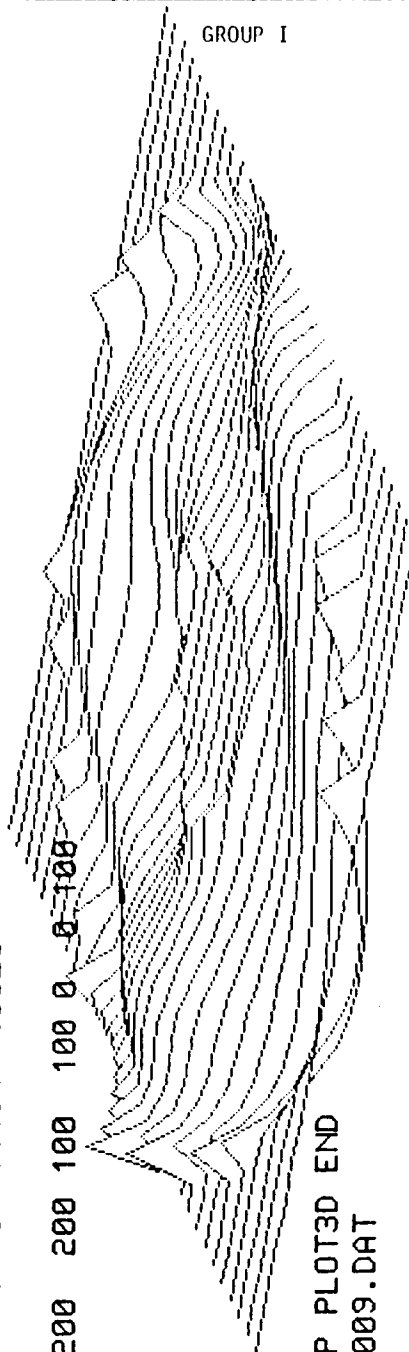
DANA WAMAP PLOT3D END

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All Zernike Coefficient Contributions

1A

GROUP I



WAVEFRONT WAVES RADIUS

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Figure D1.- Plot 1A.

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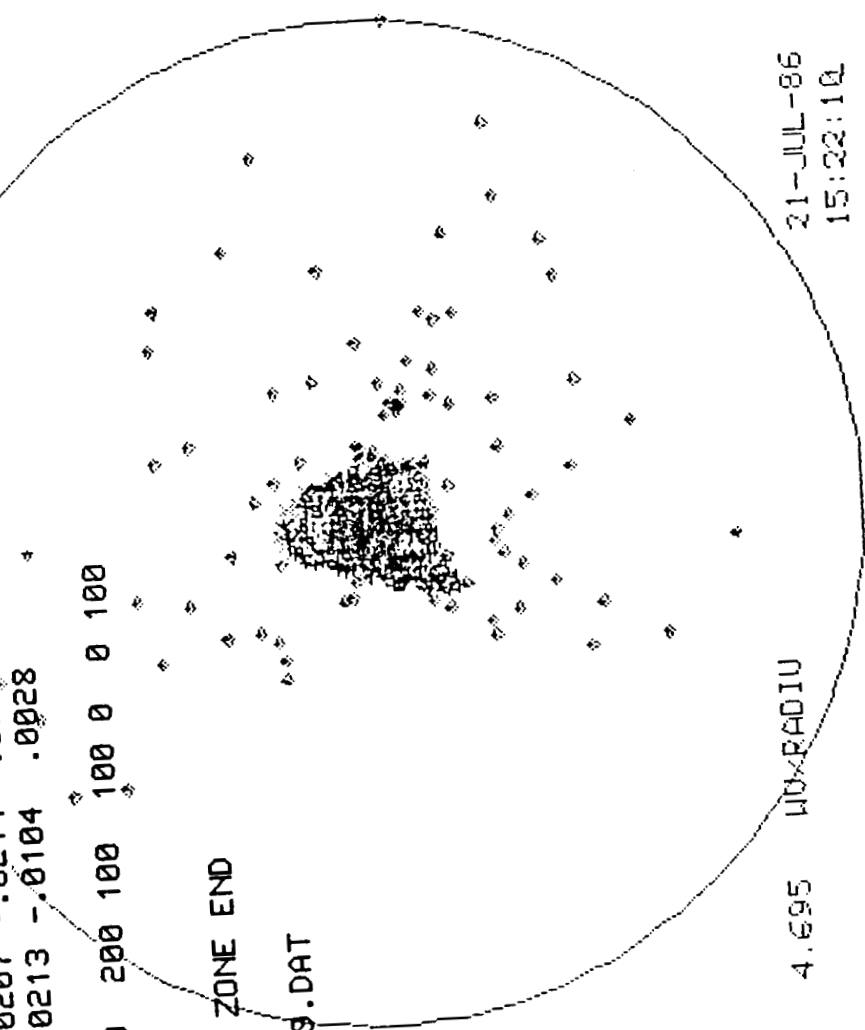
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PART

END

ESCAN GSPOT ZONE END

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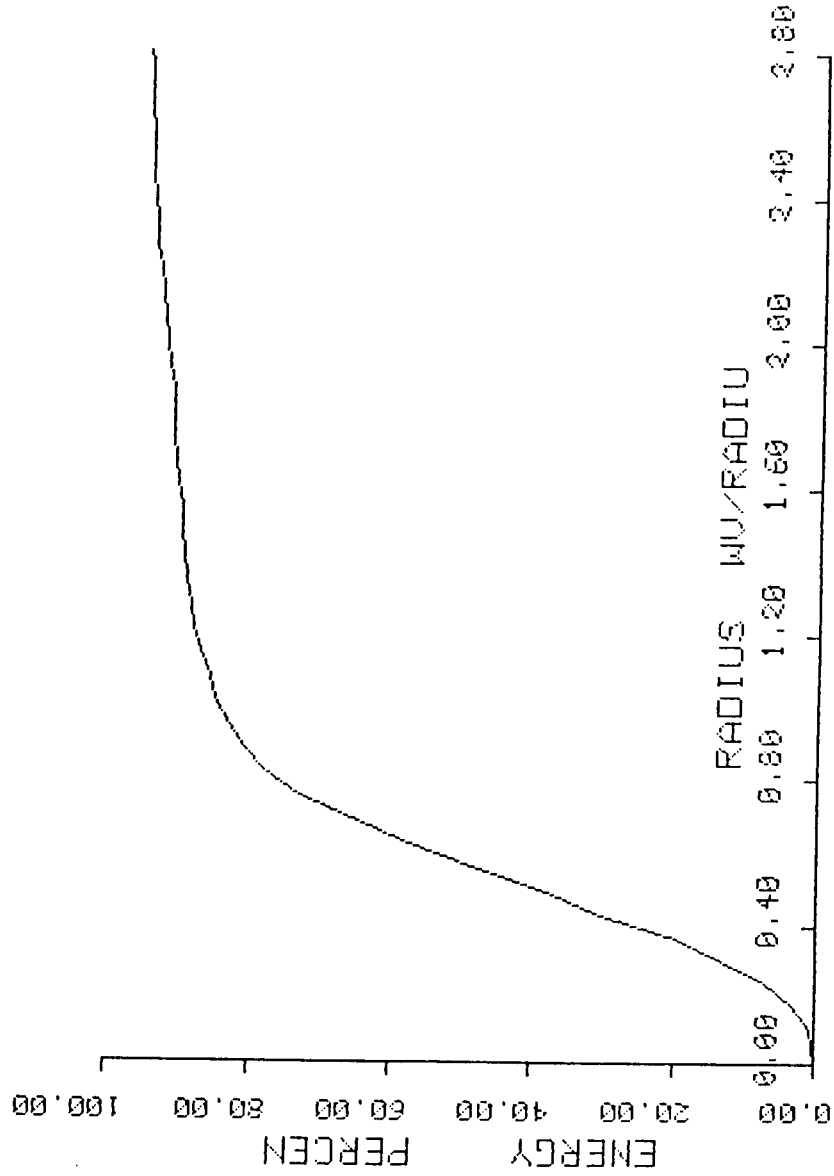
Figure D2.- Plot IB.

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IC

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GEOMETRIC SPOT



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Figure D3.- Plot IC.

II A

GROUP II

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FIDS 410 528 612 330 412 131 213 332

STEP .1

52.25
C085

ONE

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Figure D4.- Plot IIA.

11 B



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REFLECTIVE SPOT
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.0 .0 .0 .0 .0766
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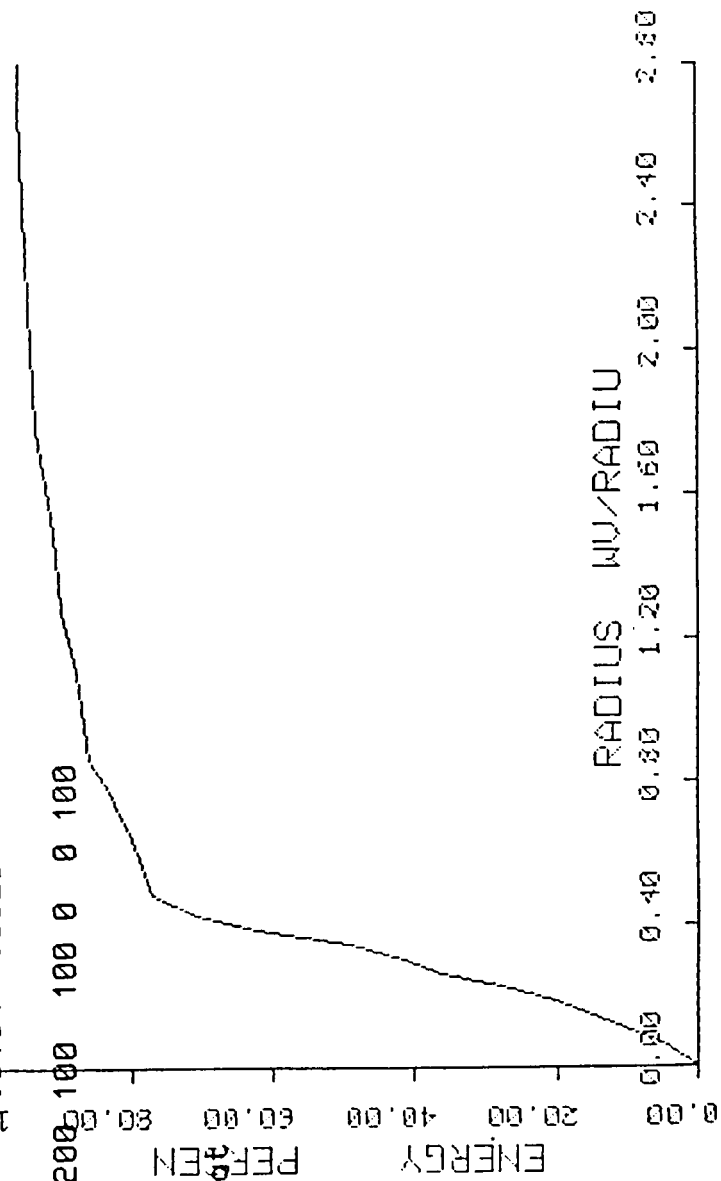


Figure D6.- Plot IIC.

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-.0182 -.0213 .0000 .0000 .0000 .0000 .0000 .0000
POLYNOMI
FIDS 410 528 612 330 412 331 243 332
WEDGE 0.5
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WIDTH .4
COBS .25
PART
END
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$ TYP FOR009.DAT

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10 Contribution (coma)

GROUP III

III A

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WAVEFRONT WAVES RADIUS

Figure D7.- Plot IIIA.

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RINGE

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-.0182	-.0213	.0	.0				

ILYNOMI

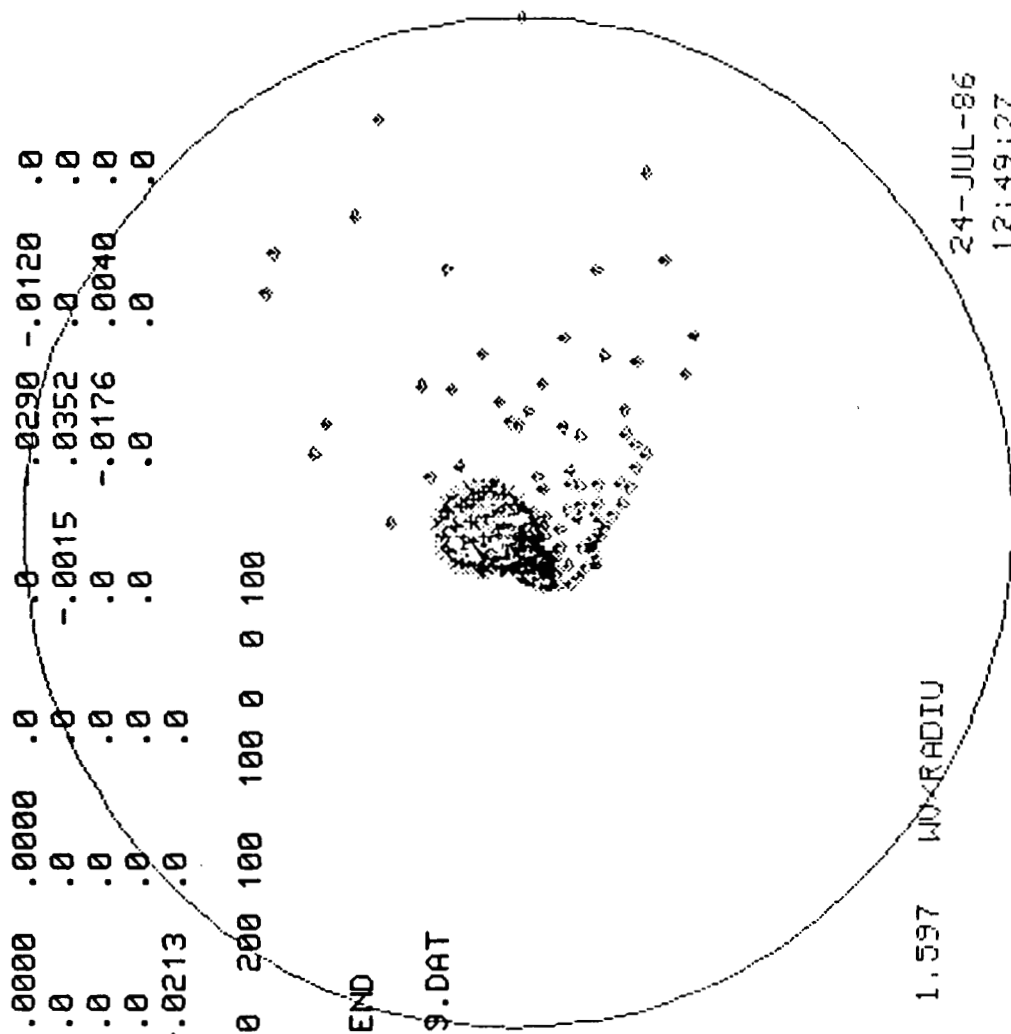
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RINGE

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Figure D8.- Plot IIIB.

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WAXOMETRIC SPOT

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.0	.0	.0	.0	.0	.0	.0
-.0182	-.0213	.0	.0			

POLYNOMI

FIDS 100 200 200 100 100 0 0 100

COBS .25

END

GSPT RED END

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ENERGY

RADIUS WU/RADIU

ENERGY	RADIUS WU/RADIU
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40.00	0.40
60.00	0.60
80.00	0.80
100.00	1.00
120.00	1.20
140.00	1.40

FRINGE

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III C

Figure D9.- Plot IIIC.

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.0000	.0000	.0000	.0000	.0000	.0000	-.0155	.0119
.0000	.0000	.0000	.0000				

POLYNOMI

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WEDGE 0.5

STEP .1

WIDTH .4

COBS .25

PART

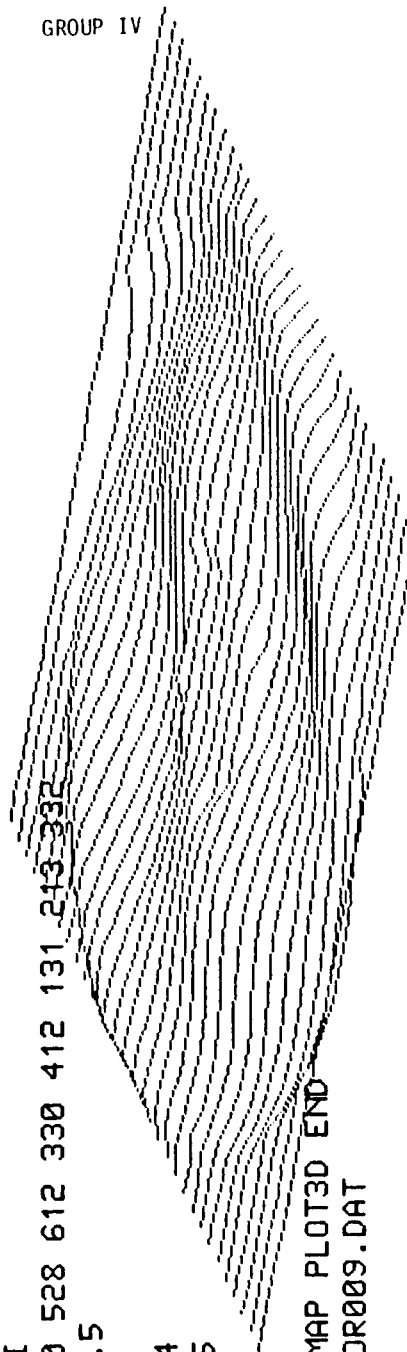
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20 Contribution (astigmatism)

GROUP IV



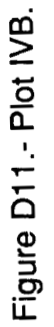
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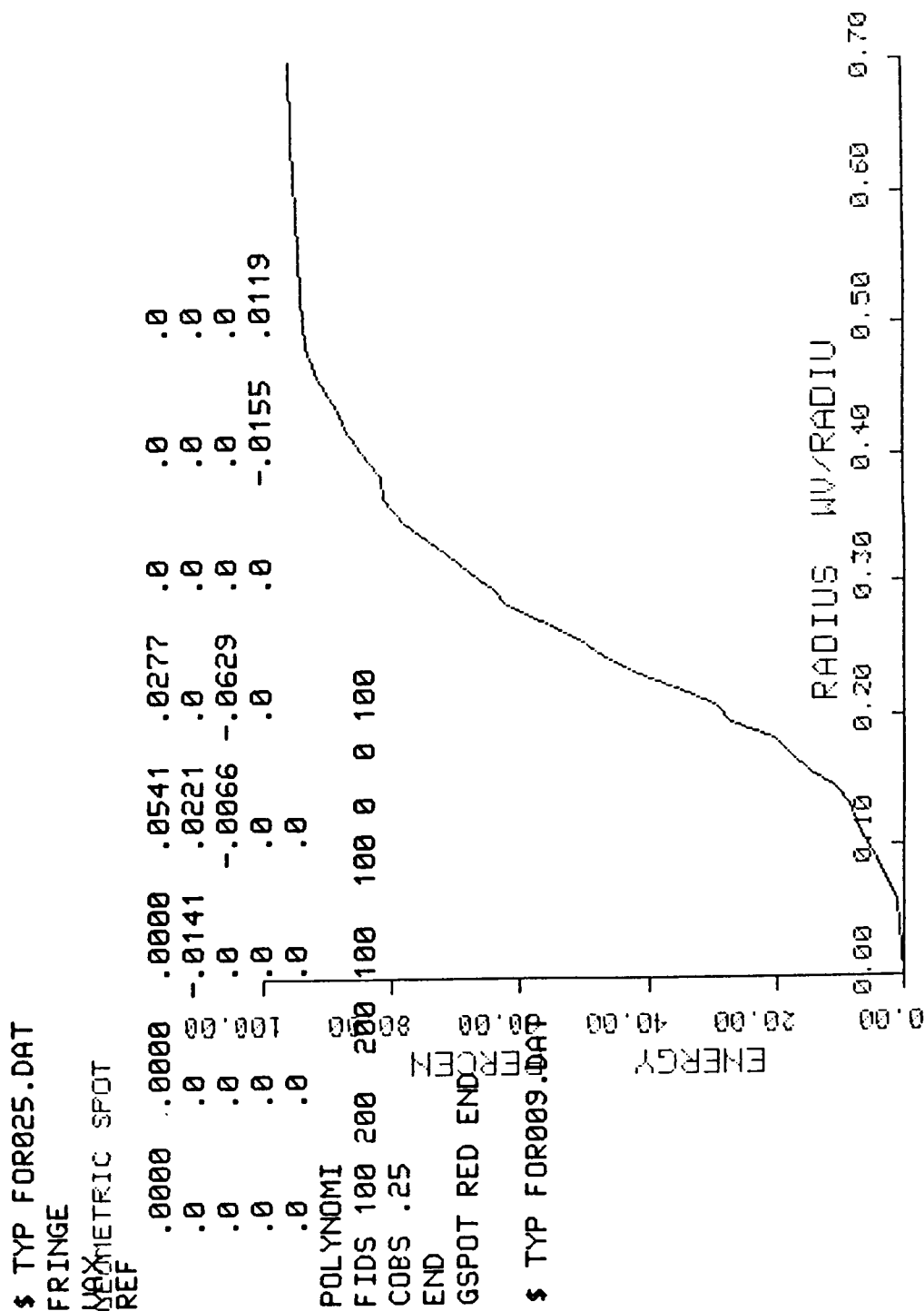
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IV A

Figure D10.- Plot IVA.

IV B





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Figure D12.- Plot IVC.

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V A

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VAX

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.0000	.0000	.0000	.0000	-.0492	-.0035	.0000	.0000	.0000	.0000
.0000	.0000	.0000	.0000	.0000	.0000	.0000	.0000	.0000	.0000

POLYNOMI

FIDS 410 520 612 330 412 131 213 332

WEDGE 0.5

STEP .1

WIDTH .4

COBS .25

PART

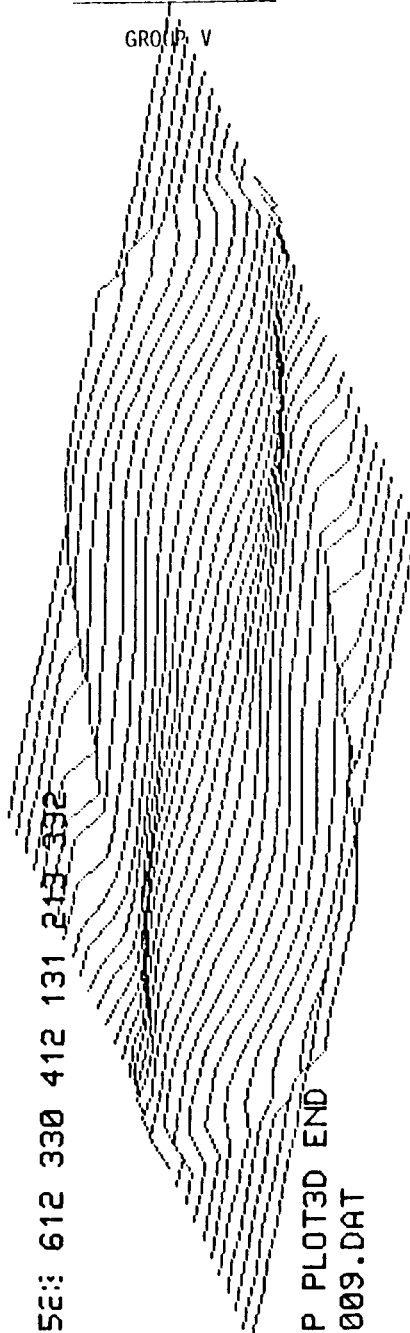
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3 0 Contribution

GROUP V



WAVEFRONT WAVES RADIUS

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Figure D13.- Plot VA.

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FRINGE

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.0	.0	.0	.0	.0	.0	.0	.0

POLYNOMI

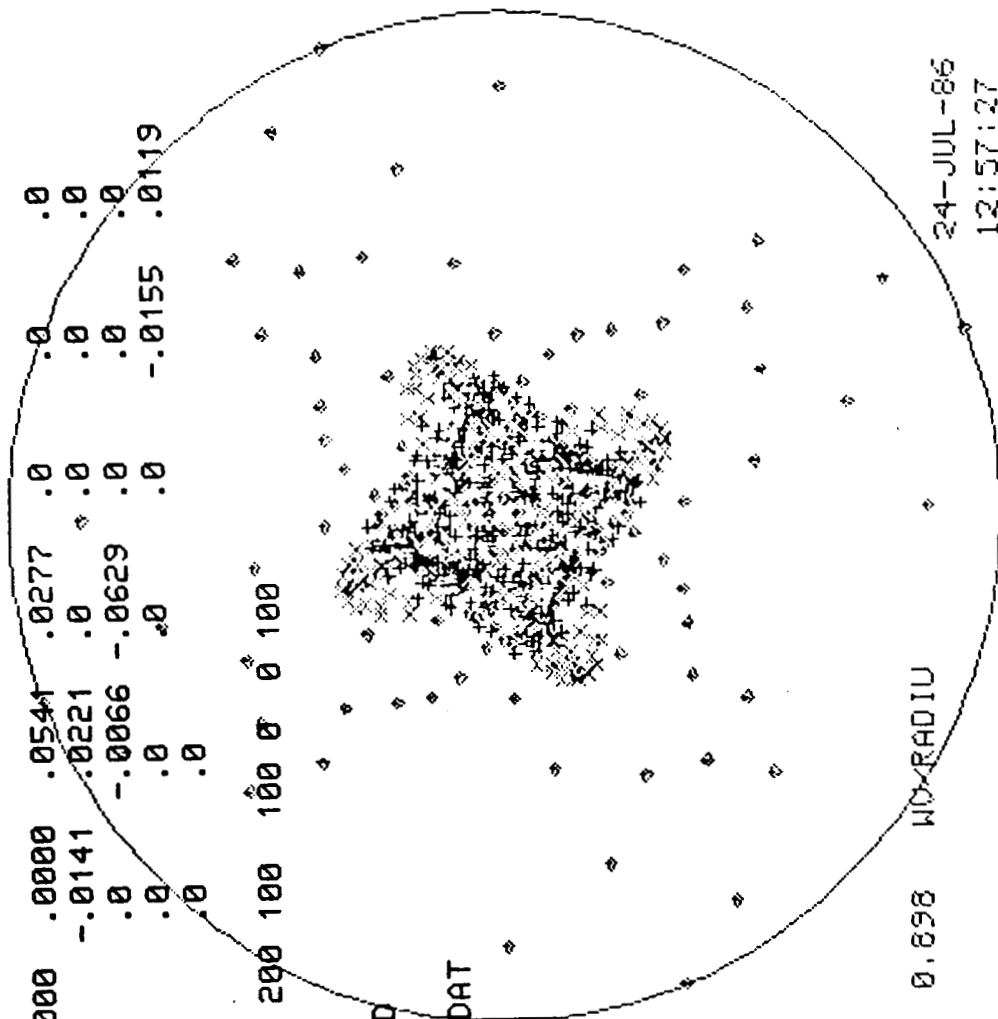
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COBS .25

END

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24-JUL-86

12:57:27

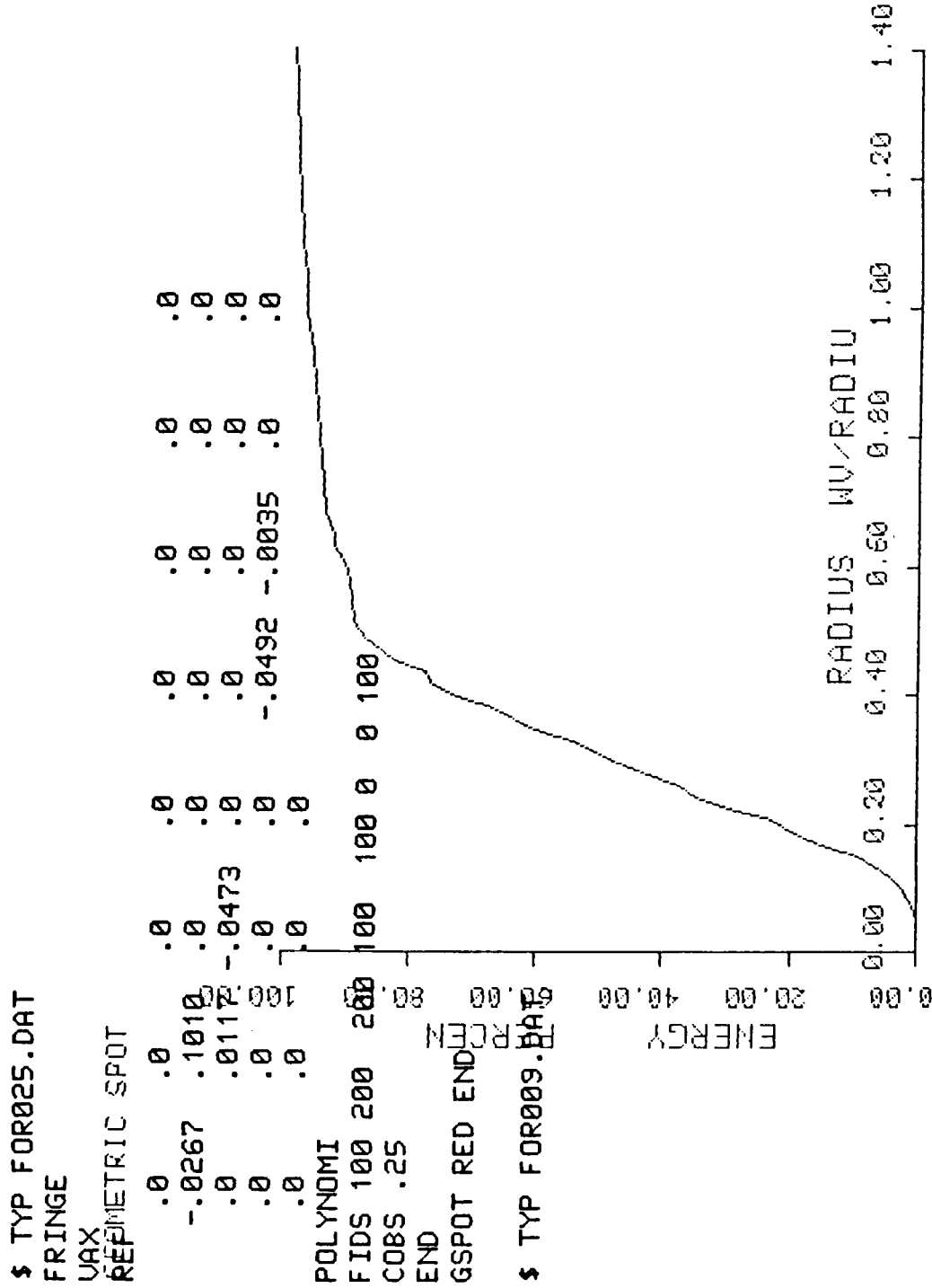
FRINGE

Figure D14.- Plot VB.

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V C



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FRINGE

Figure D15.- Plot VC.

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FRINGE

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.0000	.0000	.0000	.0000	.0000	.0000	.0000	.0000	.0000	.0219
-.0208	.0000	.0000	.0000	.0000	.0000	.0000	.0000	.0000	.0000
.0000	.0000	.0000	-.0214	.0012	.0000	.0000	.0000	.0000	.0000
.0000	.0000	.0000	.0000	.0000	.0000	.0000	.0000	.0000	.0000

POLYNOMI

FIDS 410 528 612 330 412 131 213 332

WEDGE 0.5

STEP .1

WIDTH .4

COBS .25

PART

END

DANA WAMAP PLOT30-ENG

\$ TYP FOR009.DAT

4 0 Contribution

GROUP ML

WAVEFRONTWAVES RADIUS

17-JUL-86
14:57:31

VI A

Figure D16.- Plot VIA.



\$ TYP FOR025.DAT

FRINGE

UAX GEOMETRIC SPOT
REF

.0 .0
.0 .0
-.0208 .0
.0 .0
.0 .0

.0 .0
.0 .0
.0 .0
.0214 .0012
.0 .0

.0 .0
.0 .0
.0 .0
.0 .0
.0219 .0
.0 .0

POLYNOMI

FIDS 100 200 200 100 100 0 0 100

COBS .25

END

GSPOT RED END

\$ TYP FOR009.DAT

ENERGY

ENERGY

RADIUS WU/RADIU

0.00 0.04 0.08 0.12 0.16 0.20 0.24 0.28

FRINGE

24-JUL-86
12:00:58

VI C

Figure D18.- Plot VIC.

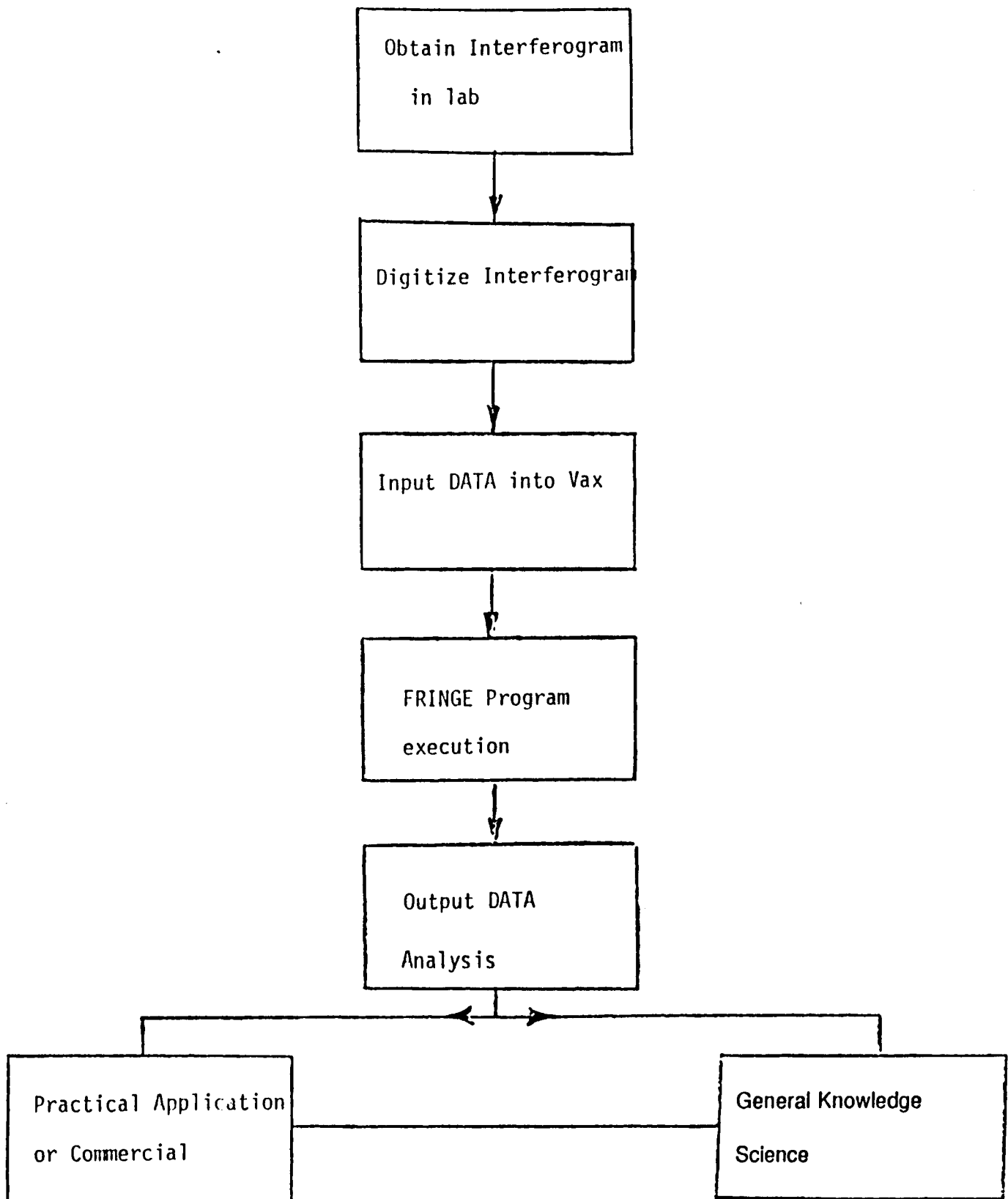


Figure E1.- Fringe analysis process flowchart.